

**Idaho Fish and Game Commission
Special Meeting
April 16, 2008**

A special meeting of the Idaho Fish and Game Commission was held by telephone conference. Commission Chairman Cameron Wheeler called the meeting to order at 8:00 am. Commissioners, Tony McDermott, Fred Trevey, Bob Barowsky, Wayne Wright and Gary Power responded to the roll call.

Present in the Director's Office: Deputy Director Virgil Moore, Dallas Burkhalter, Deputy Attorney General; Ed Schriever, Chief, Fisheries; Pete Hassemer, Anadromous Fish Manager; Jim Unsworth, Chief, Wildlife; Sam Sharr, Fisheries Anadromous Coordinator; Mary Boyer, Executive Assistant; Bonnie Butler and Emily Anderson, Governor's office.

The meeting was called to consider staff proposals for 2008 chinook salmon seasons.

RULES

Game Fish: 2008 Chinook Salmon Seasons and Limits

Pete Hassemer, Anadromous Fishery Coordinator, provided an update on the Chinook salmon run (Appendix 41, Exhibit 48).

Mr. Hassemer reviewed the staff proposals (Appendix 41, Exhibit 49) for the 2008 spring Chinook seasons. Mr. Hassemer noted that rules are similar to the 2007 rules. Proposed changes are the opening date of April 26; bag limit increased to 40 adult Chinook salmon; anglers may keep 2 jack Chinook salmon per day; and a boundary change for the mainstem Salmon River.

Mr. Hassemer advised that proposed season closures are by date or "until further notice, whichever comes first," which indicates closure may occur for biological purposes such as quota.

08-39 Commissioner Trevey moved and Commissioner Barowsky seconded a motion TO ADOPT BY PROCLAMATION THE STAFF PROPOSAL FOR THE 2008 SPRING CHINOOK SALMON SEASONS. The motion carried in a unanimous vote.

2008 SPRING CHINOOK FISHERIES PROPOSAL FOR RULEMAKING

Similar to *Idaho 2007 Spring Chinook Salmon Seasons & Rules* except for changes explicitly described in the 2008 proposal.

SEASONS

Clearwater Drainage

OPENING DATES:

April 26

Mainstem Clearwater River (see boundary definition)

North Fork Clearwater (see boundary definition)

South Fork Clearwater River (see boundary definition)

Middle Fork Clearwater River (see boundary definition)

May 24

Lochsa River (see boundary definition)

DAYS OF FISHING: 7 days a week, effective on the respective opening dates until further notice or the closure date, whichever comes first.

CLOSING DATE: Closure upon further notice or July 20, whichever comes first.

Mainstem Salmon River

OPENING DATE: April 26

Lower Salmon River Sections (see boundary definitions)

DAYS OF FISHING: 7 days a week, effective on the respective opening dates until further notice or the closure date, whichever comes first.

CLOSING DATE: Closure upon further notice or June 22, whichever comes first.

Little Salmon River

OPENING DATE: April 26

Little Salmon River (see boundary definition)

DAYS OF FISHING: 7 days a week, effective April 26 until further notice or the closure date, whichever comes first.

CLOSING DATE: Closure upon further notice or August 3, whichever comes first.

Snake River

OPENING DATE: April 26

Upper Snake River (see boundary definition)

DAYS OF FISHING: 7 days a week, effective April 26 until further notice or the closure date, whichever comes first.

CLOSING DATE: Closure upon further notice or July 20, whichever comes first.

FISHING HOURS

Fishing for Chinook salmon is permitted only ½ hour before sunrise to 1 hour after sunset, local time.

FISHING RULES

Adult Chinook Salmon

Adult anadromous (ocean run) salmon of the species *Oncorhynchus tshawytscha* 24 inches or greater in total length.

Jack Salmon

Chinook salmon less than 24 inches in total length.

DAILY, POSSESSION, AND SEASON LIMITS

Adult Chinook Salmon

Clearwater River Drainage: **2** per day, **6** in possession, **40** for the season.

Snake, Lower Salmon, and Little Salmon Rivers: **3** per day, **9** in possession, **40** for the season.

Jack Chinook Salmon

All waters open to Chinook salmon fishing: *Anglers are not required to record harvested jack Chinook salmon on their permit. However anglers may only keep 2 jack Chinook salmon per day and have 6 in possession*

An angler must cease fishing when the daily bag limit of **adult** Chinook salmon has been obtained. No person shall take more than one daily bag limit in one day. No person shall

possess more than one possession limit. No person shall take more than **40** adult Chinook salmon statewide.

BOUNDARIES

Upper Snake River:

From the Dug Bar boat ramp upstream to Hells Canyon Dam.

Mainstem Clearwater River¹

From the Camas Prairie Railroad Bridge at Lewiston upstream to the South Fork Clearwater River (excluding the perimeter of Dworshak National Fish Hatchery at Ahsahka, and excluding the ladder to the Nez Perce Tribal Hatchery as delineated by posted boundaries approximately 100 yards upstream and downstream from the ladder, and extending into the river channel approximately 50 yards).

North Fork Clearwater River¹

From the mouth upstream to Dworshak Dam excluding the perimeter of the Dworshak National Hatchery at Asahka.

South Fork Clearwater River

From its mouth upstream to the confluence of American and Red rivers.

Middle Fork Clearwater River

From the South Fork upstream to the confluence of the Lochsa and Selway Rivers

Lochsa River

From its mouth upstream to the Twin Bridges immediately upstream from the confluence of Crooked Fork and Colt Killed Creeks.

Lower Salmon River Sections

From the Hammer Creek boat ramp upstream to the Time Zone Bridge.

Time Zone Bridge upstream to the posted boundary at the mouth of Short's Creek (approximately 1.4 miles upstream of the mouth of the Little Salmon River).

Little Salmon River

From a posted line at the mouth of the Little Salmon River upstream to U. S. Highway 95 bridge near Smokey Boulder Road.

¹Clearwater Special Restrictions

Mainstem – Fishing from the shoreline along the perimeter of Dworshak National Fish Hatchery is prohibited. Fishing is also prohibited in the area of the ladder to the Nez Perce Tribal Hatchery (approximately 1 mile upstream of the Cherrylane Bridge) as delineated by posted boundaries approximately 100 yards upstream

and downstream from the ladder, and extending into the river channel approximately 50 yards.

North Fork - Fishing from the shoreline or wading along the perimeter of Dworshak National Fish Hatchery is prohibited. Fishing from any watercraft or wading is prohibited between the posted line approximately 150 yards upstream from the mouth of the North Fork Clearwater River to the Ahsahka Highway 7 Bridge. When fishing from the Ahsahka Highway 7 Bridge, it is unlawful to take or attempt to take any fish downstream of the railroad bridge. Fishing from the railroad bridge is prohibited.

METHODS OF TAKE.

- A. Unlawful to use any hook larger than 5/8 inch.
- B. Fishing prohibited after attainment of the **adult** portion of limits.
- C. Only barbless hooks may be used when fishing for Chinook salmon.
- D. It is unlawful to take or attempt to take salmon by snagging.
- E. In the Lochsa River, salmon may only be taken with artificial flies and lures with one barbless hook per fly or lure (no bait). A single hook may have up to 3 points.

MISCELLANEOUS

Consent Calendar

08-40 Commissioner Barowsky moved and Commissioner Power seconded a motion TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES FOR FEBRUARY 14, 21, AND 28, 2008. The motion carried in a unanimous vote.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Cameron Wheeler
Chairman

Cal Groen
Secretary